

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02
/115 W

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R 072205Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6002
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNGA, RP, PORG
SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL TO HAVE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN
MANILA

1. AT VINCI GROUP (WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP
WITH US AND JAPAN AS FULL PARTICIPATING MEMBERS) MEETING
OCTOBER 6, CO-CHAIRMAN AMBASSADOR VINCI OF ITALY AND AMBASSADOR
BARTON OF CANADA RAISED FOR DISCUSSION THE PHILIPPINE
PROPOSAL THAT THE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY (FALL OF 1978)
BE HELD IN MANILA.

2. AMBASSADOR HARRY OF AUSTRALIA SAID THAT HE HAD HAD
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION AND HAD
BEEN ASSURED THAT THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL WAS ENTIRELY
SERIOUS. SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CONFIRMED THAT
THEY HAD HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION
AND THAT IN ADDITION TO THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE
PHILIPPINES WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN HOSTING MEETINGS
SUCH AS UNCTAD V, THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
AND PERHAPS EVEN A MEETING OF ECOSOC AS WAS DONE IN THE
CASE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING IN ABIDJAN. THE GROUP WAS
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ALSO INFORMED THAT THE PHILIPPINES WERE PREPARED TO
SUBSIDIZE THE COSTS OF HOLDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN THE PHILIPPINES EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT COST AS MUCH
AS \$20-30 MILLION.

3. JAPAN ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD HAD EXTENSIVE CONSUL-
TATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION AND

THAT PERHAPS THE PHILIPPINES REALLY ONLY WERE THINKING OF HOLDING THE THREE-WEEK GENERAL DEBATE IN MANILA. THE AUSTRAIN REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE PHILIPPINES MIGHT NOT BE SERIOUS ABOUT HAVING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MANILA BUT WERE IN FACT ATTEMPTING TO USE THIS GAMBIT IN THE HOPES OF ATTRACTING ONE OR MORE CONFERENCES TO MANILA, SUCH AS UNCTAD V, THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE, ETC.

4. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP POINTED OUT THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT THEY HAVE HAD WITH THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL. CANADA SUGGESTED THAT THE GROUP ENCOURAGE AFRICAN STATES TO TALK TO THE PHILIPPINES POINTING OUT THE COST AND INCONVENIENCE OF SUPPORTING DELEGATIONS IN MANILA. CANADA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD FURTHER DIFFUSE THE UN, INCONVENIENCE NEW YORK-BASED SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND THAT INDIRECT COSTS TO MEMBER STATES WOULD BE ENORMOUS, EVEN FOR A THREE-WEEK GENERAL DEBATE. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WENT TO MANILA, THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER NEW YORK-BASED ORGANS PER FORCE WOULD BE UPROOTED AND INCONVENIENCED. THE FINNISH REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP SUGGESTED THAT THIS PROJECT BE HANDLED THROUGH THE REGIONAL GROUPS IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE HOPE THAT THE PHILIPPINE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT FORMALLY SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY IN THE 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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5. NO MEMBER OF THE GROUP SPOKE IN FAVOR OF HOLDING THE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MANILA, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH, THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE WEO GROUP, WOULD CONVENE A MEETING OF THE WEO GROUP TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP AGAINST HOLDING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MANILA, WHICH WOULD THEN BE REPORTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

6. AMBASSADOR LEONARD, SPEAKING FOR THE US, EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GROUP'S SUPPORT IN INSURING THAT THE 33RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HELD IN NEW YORK CITY.

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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